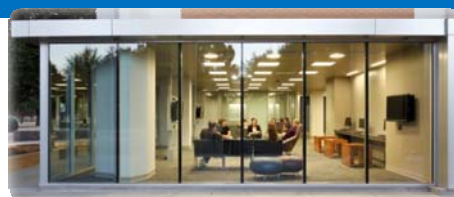


Porter Henderson Library

Library Newsletter



Word from the Director

Dr. Maurice Fortin

Another spring semester is about to end. This is my 44th spring semester since beginning my university days in the fall of 1969 at what was then North Texas State University. That was the last academic year at North Texas where the fall semester did not begin until mid-September, and because of the Christmas break, the semester did not end until mid-January. The 1970 spring semester did not start until either late in January or on the first of February. The spring semester did not finish until after Memorial Day at the end of May.

The very first Earth Day was held on April 22 that semester. I still remember all of the special celebrations held on campus. The featured speaker for the day was Senator Ralph Yarborough. Since he was running for reelection, the speech, unfortunately, turned out to be more of a campaign rally than a speech about the environment. He certainly was an old style political orator so it was entertaining to say the least. I mean after all he had President Nixon and the Vietnam War for subject matter. I will add more about the Vietnam War later in this piece. The next month Senator Yarborough lost to Lloyd Bentsen in the Democratic primary. As part of the Earth Day activities, I acquired my longest living pet that day. In fact, he is still busy helping me in my office today. (Please see Mr. Green's picture (next page) doing his duty as a paperweight.) Yep, Mr. Green is my "pet rock." How many of you still have a pet rock somewhere in a drawer or lying on a table?



I had my freshman speech course (an elective part of the core) that spring semester. My final speech for the course was a required speech where I had to argue for a topic while another student had to argue against the same topic. The topic assigned to us was Nixon's invasion of Cambodia and the widening of the Vietnam War. That was not an easy assignment given the climate on most university campuses that spring. Although I had the pro side, my classmate had a much harder task. Her husband of less than a year was part of the forces sent into Cambodia. She struggled to control her emotions and made a great speech. The other memorable part of that speech course was one of the more famous members of the class: Phyllis George, Miss America of 1971.

Many of you will remember the tragic events that occurred on May 4 at the Kent State University campus. Like so many other campuses that spring, North Texas had its share of protests and sit-ins

against the War and in support of civil rights. Following the killing of the four students at Kent State, the local campus protest leaders organized a massive protest march for the next day. Another group of students took the opportunity to stage a sit-in in the main administration building. Fortunately cooler heads prevailed and made sure there were no incidents in the march. The occupiers of the administration building left peacefully when confronted by a massive show of force from the city and state police. We also had a wonderful university president who did a great deal to prevent any violence by either side. Of course the reactionary powers-that-be from the community and Austin took offense and engineered his resignation later that summer. (Some things never change.) My main problem from that day stemmed from the similarity of my name with the leading student protestor and organizer. His name was Maury Forman. For years afterwards when I was introduced to members of the administration or faculty members saw my name on the class rolls, they always grew suspicious of anyone named Maury (my nickname)/Maurice with a last name that began "For." Then again, by the end of my sophomore year I had gained enough of a deserved

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reputation for causing problems in classes (mainly good but also some not so good) that many members of the faculty groaned when they saw my name on their class rolls. That is a story for another time.

Obviously 43 years later, the world and campus life have drastically changed in ways both positive and negative. I leave it for the reader to decide which aspects might be positive or negative. Some parts of college life will always be the same. As I



write this missive, we are in Pre-finals Week. I still prefer the designation of DEAD WEEK!! After all if a student does not catch up on all of those put off assignments, chapters not yet read, and numerous papers that were due last week ... well one can guess how poorly the results will be come Finals Week. If the student fails, he is "dead" once he returns home for the summer. If the student does manage to complete all of those overdue assignments/papers, read all of those chapters, and then somehow ace the finals, she will probably feel "dead" from exhaustion. I know the term dead week is supposed to mean the lack of assignments and classwork to allow students ample time to study for finals. That is not always the case is it?

I had a very successful spring semester in 1970. I believe I made five As and one B. I did make an A in the speech course. As soon as I finished my last exam, I moved out of the dorm (of course lost my room deposit – did anyone ever get their room deposit back?) and returned to my parent's house in Dallas. I had three whole days to relax.

On Monday morning of the next week, I reported for work at the Dallas Coca Cola distributor and spent my second summer delivering soft drinks (primarily bottles and a few of the newfangled aluminum cans that did not require a can opener) in the Irving, Farmers Branch, Carrollton, and Lewisville areas. One of the stops I made was the construction headquarters for what became DFW airport. To get to the headquarters house (literally a house that was on some of the property bought for the airport), we had to dodge earth moving equipment and bounce over portions of runways in various stages of completion. That certainly did not do very much for carbonated soft drinks. Coke had a 26½-oz. family size glass bottle in those days. (I still do not understand the ½ oz.) The bottles had very thin glass and they were literally bombs waiting to go off when shaken. Couple the thin glass with a bumpy ride and 100°+ temperatures and I had, on several occasions, the joy of picking glass shards out of my hands.

That is enough reminiscing for now. This academic year has been very busy with increased usage of the Learning Commons and the Library's e-resources. I will give a full report on usage in the coming fall semester. The Library is planning several work projects for the summer, but no major construction work. An outline of the projects is listed below.

Weeding of QA and B Call Number Ranges

Library staff members will work with faculty members from Computer Science and MIS to weed materials from the QA call number area. Many of these materials are for outdated application software and system programs. Many of the books have accompanying 5" and 3½" discs. The second weeding project involves the B call number range. Mark Allan and I plan to weed outdated textbook type materials from this call number area.

Additional Moves of Materials to RCC

During the weeding projects, Mark and I will also be looking for large sets of materials in both the A and B call number ranges to move to the Remote Circulating Collection (RCC). Both projects, weeding and moving some materials to remote storage, will allow for space to accommodate growth of new materials.

Consolidation of Current Periodicals

Due to massive cuts in subscriptions to print periodicals, the Library will condense the existing current issues periodical shelving in the Basement's northwest corner. The project will save an entire range of shelves. The shelves will be relocated somewhere else in the Library. Most if not all of the cuts are due to a switch to electronic access to serial publications.

"Oversize" Books

The Circulation unit is working on identifying tall/large monographs currently shelved in the stack ranges on Second Floor that could be housed on the over-sized shelving units along the east wall of the Floor. This will help with ensuring the main stack aisles are ADA-compliant.

Please have a safe and restful summer. The remainder of this issue consists of reports from each Library department and some updated information on online resources in RamCat. [Note: The "wordles" illustrating each article were generated at <http://www.wordle.net/>]

Congratulations to ...

Lynette Ott, Serials Assistant, for 20 years of service to Angelo State

Veronica Ramos, Cataloging Assistant, for 10 years of service to Angelo State

Joshua Logsdon, Student Assistant in the WTC, for making the 2013 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in America's Universities and Colleges*

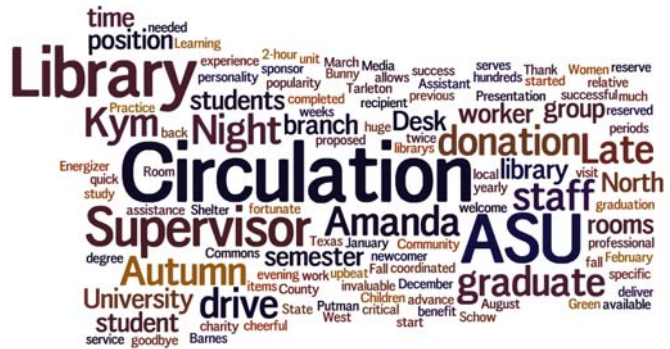
“Challenging”

Angela Skaggs, Assistant Director for Access Services, described her department's year as "Challenging." Changes in some services, an increased number of users, staff turn-overs, even the usual absences due to illness, all made for a challenging time in the public service department with the most interaction with the Library's users.

In January the library staff said goodbye to Kym Schow, an ASU graduate who worked in Circulation for many years, first as a student worker, and then as the Late Night Supervisor. Kym completed her graduate library degree from University of North Texas in December and accepted a professional position at Tarleton State University, where she serves as that library's Circulation Supervisor. While Kym's cheerful, upbeat personality is missed, the Circulation staff was fortunate to hire Amanda Putman in March to fill the critical Late Night Supervisor position. Amanda is an ASU graduate who also worked in the Circulation unit as a student worker. Since her graduation she has been working for Tom Green County Public Library, first at the North branch, and most recently at the West branch. Her previous experience has been an invaluable assistance to her quick start in the Late Night Supervisor slot. Please be sure to welcome Amanda back to ASU on your next evening visit to the Library.

Another relative newcomer to the Library's staff is Autumn Barnes, who started with us in August 2012 as the Media Library Assistant. Autumn is the mother of three, and, on occasion, has been mistaken for the Energizer Bunny. Soon after she began work at ASU, Autumn proposed that twice yearly the Library sponsor a donation benefit for a local charity. She coordinated the first donation drive in February, and it was so successful that she was able to deliver literally hundreds of much needed items to the Women's and Children's Shelter. A huge "Thank You" goes out to the ASU Community for making this drive such a success. Another donation drive is being planned for the fall 2013 semester, with a different recipient.

Since the start of the Fall 2012 semester, students have been able to reserve group study rooms. This service allows students needing a place to work as a group to be able to plan a specific time and place to meet, and is a direct response to the popularity of the Presentation Practice Room in the Learning Commons. Rooms are available for 2-hour time periods, and may be reserved up to two weeks in advance by calling the Circulation Desk or by stopping by in person at the Circulation Desk.



"Assiduous"

Collins English Dictionary (2003) defines "assiduous" as "hard-working; persevering" or "undertaken with perseverance and care." The members of the Research and Instruction Department continue to be busy and productive, "hard-working" and "persevering" in their endeavors. Special events/projects undertaken included the following.

Mark Allan, Assistant Director of Research and Instruction, and Sarah Schmidt, Reference/Government Information Librarian, were both accepted to the very competitive ACRL Immersion Program, with the goal of improving the Library's information literacy program. In addition, Sarah received a stipend to attend the Texas Library Association Annual conference in Ft. Worth. She focused her sessions on the librarian's role in freshman success initiatives, including Common Read programs and information literacy instruction. Both Mark and Sarah presented at the District 1 Meeting of the Texas Library Association with Dr. Andy Wallace, Dean of the Freshman College, and local library professionals regarding information literacy. Mark and Sarah worked with Dr. Wallace in developing criteria for critical thinking and information literacy as part of the Freshman College's new Freshman Seminar core curriculum. Sarah subsequently created a series of videos and assessment instruments to aid instructors in teaching and assessing information literacy objectives.

Sarah is the co-chair of ASU's Common Read program, along with Sara Weertz, Executive Director of First Year Experience. During the spring semester, they organized a collaboration with Mr. Edwin Cuenco's Design Layouts class to create marketing for the program. They also threw a book launch party on April 29 for faculty, staff, and community members to kick off the 2013-2014 selection, *Into the Beautiful North*. If you are



Technical Services Department Activities

Collins English Dictionary (2003) defines "transition" as "change or passage from one state or stage to another" or "the period of time during which something changes from one state or stage to another." The staff in Technical Services, consisting of acquisitions, serials, and cataloging, has been busy dealing with transitions this year, the most visible one, to our users, is the transition from print to online.



The Library's collection is transforming from a mainly print-based one to one with vastly more online resources. More online books, for instance, are being purchased this year than ever before, maybe even more than books in print. We are also subscribing to fewer journals in print and moving to more online subscriptions. Meanwhile, with fewer journals being subscribed to in print, there are fewer paper issues to check in. And with fewer titles in print arriving in the Library, there is less need for open shelving to house the current issues. Therefore, this summer the serials staff, led by Lynette Ott, will be shifting in the current

Issues area in the northwest corner of the basement, consolidating space and freeing up at least one range of shelving for use elsewhere in the Library.

These changes have affected the workflow in the department, and the workloads of staff members. A few examples will show how this transition to a more online environment has affected Technical Services. With print books, for instance, the acquisitions staff purchases copies; the cataloging staff creates item records in the online system (Voyager), barcodes and labels the books, and shelves them in the Stacks or another location. That's it; the process is complete. Students, faculty, or others find these titles when they use RamCat or U-Search and check them out for use. The process is not so straightforward with online materials. Acquisitions staff order ebooks; the titles are cataloged in Voyager within a day or two; then they are ready for use. There are no item records to create, no books to label or shelve. Also, many databases and publisher packages require negotiating a license agreement detailing the price, as well as what uses can or cannot be done with the resources, among other legal issues. We must provide information to the vendors, such as the FTE count (because costs may be based on this count) and the university's IP address range (to make access to these resources possible). The staff is required to keep track of these agreements and with the respective renewal dates for each database or package, as well as for serial subscriptions (online or print). As we move to a collection with more and more online resources, this tracking task becomes ever more cumbersome and complicated.

To aid us in these tasks not required for print materials, the Library has subscribed to two products from EBSCO, the vendor for many of our databases and our serial subscription agent. The Electronic Resource Management (ERM) product is designed to assist in tracking and managing our many and varied online resources. The Usage Consolidation (UC) product will consolidate our COUNTER usage statistics for these resources, especially online journal use, and assist the Library's Collection Development team in making future purchasing decisions. Jenny Hock, Acquisitions Librarian, and Susan Elkins, Electronic Serials Librarian, are taking the lead in the implementation of these two products. Both the ERM and the UC require a large expenditure of staff time to populate the data, especially for the non-EBSCO resources.

As stated above, this year the Library has purchased fewer books in print, allowing Sylvia Davila and Veronica Ramos, the cataloging assistants, to concentrate on completing a project that has been in the works for almost 20 years, the barcoding project. This project involves using the shelflist cards to identify books upstairs in the Second Floor stacks that still need to be barcoded. At the same time, staff members are checking the cataloging records in Voyager and updating/replacing those as needed. This project began before Dr. Fortin joined the staff as Director in 1996; now Sylvia and Veronica feel that they may be able to complete this by the end of August, 2013. At least five different staff members, if not more, have labored on this project over the years. When the last shelflist drawer is finished expect to hear loud cheers from the back rooms of the Library. (A celebratory party is planned.)

Online Resources in RamCat

The transition to more online resources can best be illustrated by the graphics below. The first shows the number of links in all types of records in RamCat, of which there are three: authority records, bibliographic records, and holding records. The vast majority of links are included in bibliographic records. These could be links to Tables of Contents, to “contributor information,” or publisher descriptions, even sample texts. The important ones are links to the resource itself (ebooks) or to the various databases or other services where journal articles can be retrieved.

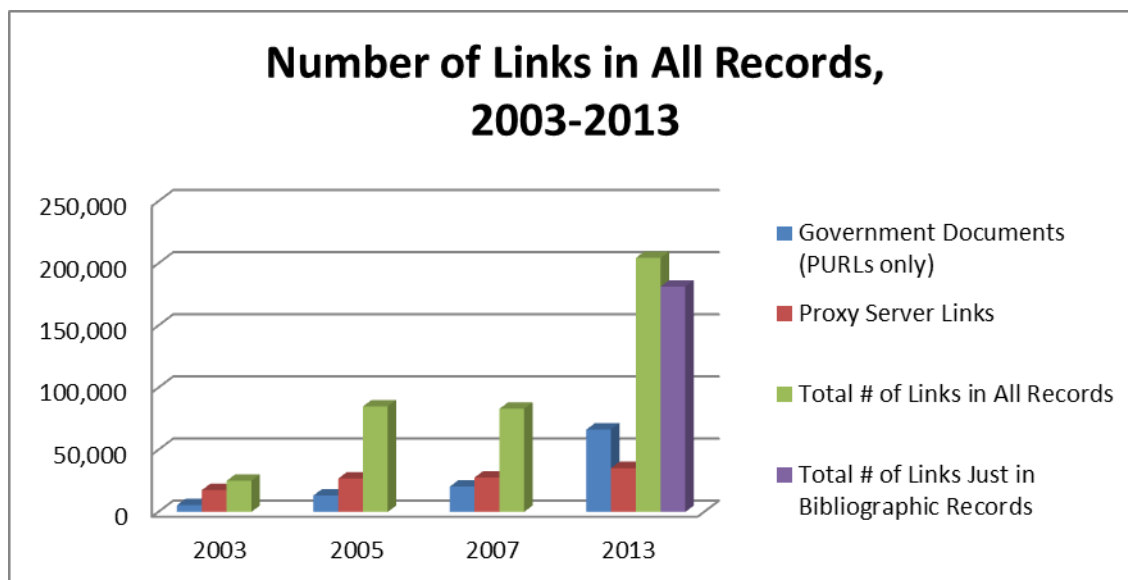


An ever-increasing online presence in RamCat is that of electronic government information/publications. The "Government Documents" count in the first figure below shows only a small portion of these links to "government documents," namely those links that are

PURLs (Persistent Uniform Resource Locators). Other links to government documents, not included in this count, could be direct links to resources on government websites, congressional web sites, or other sites.

Another type of link in RamCat is to the proxy server. Links that begin with the proxy server string allow ASU-affiliated users (faculty, students, and staff) access to resources from off-campus. One must log in to the proxy server before a link to the resource is established. These links allow students and faculty "attending" ASU anywhere in the world to access resources the Library has subscribed to, be they online journals, ebooks, or databases.

As can be seen in the first graph below, the number of links in all records has risen steadily since 2003. The total numbers take a big jump between 2007 and 2013, with over 100,000 links added in records during that six-year span.



The graph below shows some of the types of resources linked to in RamCat. Over the past two to three years, the Library has added Films on Demand streaming video records and links, as well as "online journals." Streaming videos were not even represented in RamCat in 2007, and very few links at that time were to online journals. The number of online journal links represents titles accessible full-text through databases, direct online subscriptions, and publisher packages (such as, ACM Digital Library, IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect's Freedom Collection, SAGE Premier, or Wiley Online Library).

The U.S. Government Documents count includes any .gov link, including all PURLs. Texas government publications are not represented in this count.

